

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

Public Relations / 11150 East Blvd. / Cleveland, Ohio 44106 / 216 421-7340

ART FILMS AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART TO COMPLEMENT THE EXHIBITION
THE SPIRIT OF SURREALISM, OCTOBER 3 THROUGH NOVEMBER 25, 1979

The Cleveland Museum of Art offers a regular Wednesday art film series called, *In the Dark About Art: Films on Art and Artists*. During October, November, and December films for that series have been selected to complement the exhibition The Spirit of Surrealism, on view at the Museum from October 3 through November 25. The films are shown twice on Wednesdays, at 12:30 and 7:00 pm.

October 3. Dada. Interviews with Max Ernst, Hans Richter, Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, and Gabriele Picabia Buffet document the history of the short-lived dada movement. The film includes a re-created stage presentation from the Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich, where dada emerged in 1916. 1969. 31 minutes.

October 10. Entr'acte. Francis Picabia wrote the script of this short film and René Clair directed it. Made as an intermission piece for the Jean Borlin-Erik Satie ballet Relâche, the film is infused with dada's mocking spirit. Satie, Borlin, Picabia, Marcel Duchamp, and Man Ray appear. Silent. 1924. 20 minutes.

October 17. From Dada to Surrealism (La Clef des Chants Surréalistes). Starting with the literary sources in Andre Bréton and the nihilistic dada school, this film introduces the concepts and compositions of surrealism. It includes the work of de Chirico, Magritte, Delvaux, Ernst, Dali, Klee, Miró, and others. 1966. 40 minutes.

October 24. Ballet mécanique and Surrealism (and Dada). Fernand Léger's famous abstract film, Ballet mécanique, uses a few drawn or painted geometric forms and a montage of photographic images. Like later surrealist films, it shows the influence of Freud and its humor is often outrageous. Silent. 1924. 14 minutes. Surrealism (and Dada) surveys the works of Duchamp, Man Ray, Arp, Miró, Klee, de Chirico, Magritte, Matta, Tanguy, Ernst, Dali, and others. The sound track of music of the period includes "Pre-Syllabic Sonata" by painter-composer Kurt Schwitters. 1970. 18 minutes.

October 31. Magritte: The False Mirror. Made during a retrospective at the Tate Gallery in 1969, this film examines Magritte's images to a spoken commentary of his statements and anecdotes from his close friends. 1970. 22 minutes.

2-art films

November 7. Max Ernst: Journey into the Subconscious. One of the principal founders and artists of the surrealist movement explores the nature of materials and the emotional significance of shapes. Narration and voice: Max Ernst. 12 minutes. Realms of the Fantastic. Works by Salvador Dali, Paul Klee, Paul Delvaux, René Magritte, and others are accompanied by personal and fantastic lyrics by the artists. 11 minutes.

November 14. Kindness Week or the Seven Capital Elements. This film is on one of Max Ernst's collage-novels, and includes seven sequences representing the days of the week. Ernst's irreverent collages describe the nihilistic attitudes of the post-World War I dadaist writers and artists. 19 minutes.

November 21. Anemic Cinema by Marcel Duchamp. This characteristically dada film consists of a series of verbal and visual puns--like the title: anemic is an anagram of cinema. Nonsense phrases are inscribed around rotating spiral patterns that appear to be receding and advancing in deep space. Silent. 1926. 7 minutes. Ghosts Before Breakfast by Hans Richter. Defying all conventions, social and cinematic, derbies fly through the air, pistols are fired but no one dies, and bearded men (among them Paul Hindemith, Darius Milhaud, and Richter) advance into the camera. Originally created for the 1928 Baden-Baden music festival (with a Hindemith score now lost), this absurd dada work remains as surprising as the day it was filmed. Silent. 1926. 9 minutes.

November 28. Emak bakia by Man Ray. Named for the Basque villa (whose name means Leave Me Alone) where some of the film was shot, Man Ray's film uses all the tricks he could invent "that might annoy certain spectators." Silent. 1927. 17 minutes.

December 5. Retour à la raison. Directed by Man Ray. Made to insult and aggravate the audience at the last great dada soirée, this absurd film was made in one night; much of it was created outside the camera by placing objects directly onto raw film and exposing it to light. Silent. 1923. 5 minutes. L'Etoile de mer. Directed by Man Ray. Choosing Robert Desnos's poem as scenario because it had "no dramatic action, yet all the elements for a possible action," Man Ray used in this experimental film Kiki, a famous model who had posed for Toulouse-Lautrec and other painters. Silent. 1928. 15 minutes.

December 12. Les Mystères du Château du Dé. Directed by Man Ray. This mysterious and amusing film shows the aimless activities of the veiled inhabitants of an elegant Basque villa designed by Mallet-Stevens, and creates an atmosphere of impending but inconsequential doom. Silent. 1929. 25 minutes.

The films are free and are sponsored by The Cleveland Museum of Art for its members and the general public.